

REMARKS

Reconsideration And Allowance Are Respectfully Requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-19 are currently pending. Claims 4 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5, 11, 15 and 19 have been amended. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant would first like to thank Examiners Colon-Santana and Nappi for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on September 10, 2003. During the course of this interview, the prior art of record was discussed as it relates to the pending claims. In particular, Applicant's Representative, Howard Flaxman, suggested amending claim 1 so as to define the compression fitting of the drivers within the housing member and the utilization of a physical crossover network. Based upon this discussion, claim 1 has been amended and is now believed to overcome the prior art of record.

Applicant would also like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter found in claims 11-14 and 16-18. In addition, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8-10 would be allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form.

With regard to the outstanding rejections, the drawings have been objected to based upon minor informalities. As requested in the Office Action, proposed drawing corrections are enclosed.

As to the objections to the specification, the specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

With regard to the claim objections, claims 15 and 19 have been amended and are now believed to comply with the patent statutes. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the

objections relating thereto be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejections based upon prior art, claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,687,247 to Proni. Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,874,695 to Tracy in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,993,510 to Kato et al. Finally, claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Tracy and Kato et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,884 to Parrella.

With the outstanding rejections in mind, Applicant has amended claim 1 so as to define a speaker assembly. The speaker assembly includes a speaker housing having a close top wall and an opposed open end. A first sound source is mounted within the speaker housing. A first cover member is positioned over at least a portion of the first sound source to thereby alter the frequency response of the first sound source. In addition, the first cover member is a first support housing secured to the close top wall of the speaker housing and the first sound source is positioned between the first support housing and the close top wall. The first sound source is compression fit between the speaker housing and the first cover member such that a top edge of the first sound source contacts the speaker housing and a bottom edge of the first sound source contacts the first cover member with compressive force being applied to the first sound source by the speaker housing and the first cover member.

In addition, the speaker assembly includes a second sound source mounted within the speaker housing. A second cover member is positioned over at least a portion of the second sound source to thereby alter the frequency response of the second sound source. The second cover member is a second support housing secured to the close top wall of the speaker housing and the second sound source is positioned between the second support housing and the close top wall. The

second sound source is compression fit between the speaker housing and the second cover member such that a top edge of the second sound source contacts the speaker housing and bottom edge of the second sound source contacts the second cover member with compressive force being applied to the second sound source by the housing and the second cover member.

The first cover member and the second cover member respectively alter the frequency response of the first sound source and the second sound source in a manner creating a physical crossover network.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the Office Action applies the teachings of Tracy and Kato in showing the obviousness of claimed 1 as originally filed. However, claim 1 has been substantially amended and now includes limitations not found in either Tracy or Kato. In addition, these features are neither disclosed nor suggested in the other prior art of record in the present application. In particular, neither Tracy, Kato nor the cited prior art disclose or suggest first and second sound sources compression fit between housing members, as well as the utilization of cover members for creating a physical crossover network.

As discussed during the interview, the present speaker assembly is particularly designed for utilization within an aircraft environment. As such, weight and stability are critical issues in the design of the present speaker assembly. By providing a speaker assembly wherein the sound sources are compression fit, screws and other fittings are not required, thereby, reducing the overall weight of the speaker assembly. In addition, by creating a physical crossover network through the utilization of the first and second cover members, additional weight is reduced as an electronic crossover network is not required.

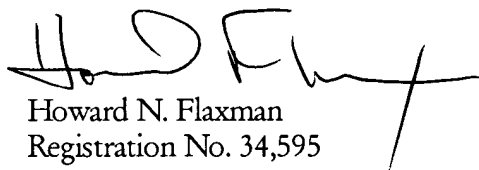
The combination of these features provides for a speaker assembly offering previously unforeseen weight reduction and stability improvement greatly enhancing the overall performance of the speaker assembly.

With the foregoing in mind, it is Applicant's opinion that amended claim 1 overcomes the prior art of record and Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn. As to those claims dependent upon independent claim 1, they are believed to overcome the prior art of record for the reasons presented above.

While reviewing allowed claim 11, Applicant noted a typographical error in the fourth line of the claim. In particular, the fourth line refers to "the first wall". This should have read as "the second wall" and Applicant has accordingly amended the claim. This amendment is not believed to alter the allowable nature of the claim and Applicant respectfully requests that the allowance of this claim be maintained.

It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested. If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact Applicant's representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



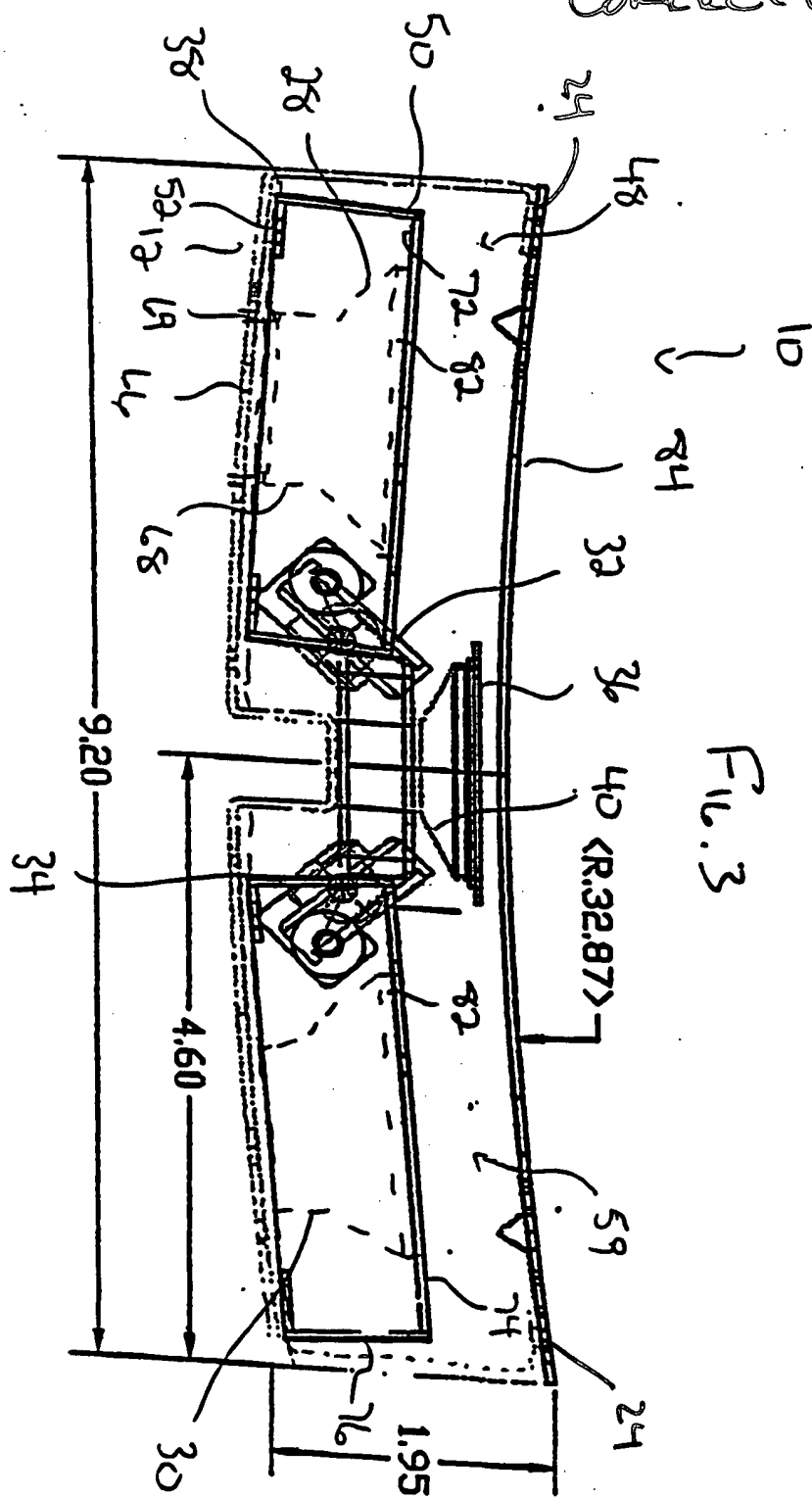
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PROPOSED DRAWING 6

CORRECTION 10/08/93



PROPOSED DRAWING

CORRECTION 10/08/2003

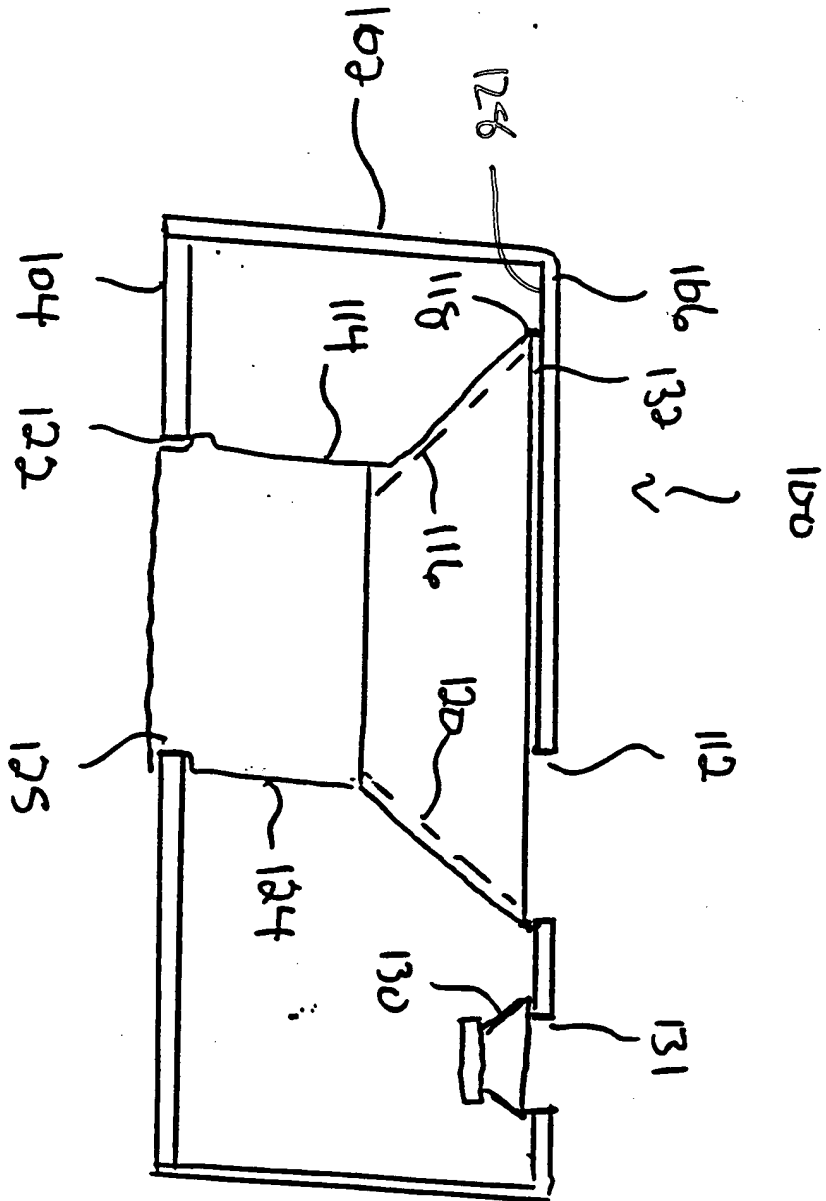


Fig. 9